



Connecticut General Assembly
Planning and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100
Hartford, CT 06106

February 2, 2021

Dear Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

This statement is furnished to express support by the [American Adoption Congress](#) for HB6105, a vital human and civil rights proposal which will:

- **Remove date-based restrictions** for adult adoptees, born prior to 1983, to access their own original birth certificate
- **Restore unrestricted access** to original birth certificates (OBC) for all adult adoptees, just like all citizens and adults who “age-out” of foster care
- **Allow for non-binding contact preferences** to be filed

At the age of 18, all citizens of Connecticut have the legal right to obtain their original birth certificate, except for some adopted adults. The American Adoption Congress feels that now, after years of consideration, Connecticut is poised to join the nine other states with unrestricted access policy. **This belief is consistent with our [formal legislative policy](#) for clean adoption reform.**

Further, we expect that the proper reform in Connecticut will help, as in New York in 2020, lead other diverse states to enact proper reform. The time is now. The right to know one’s identity is a human right that should not be incrementally bestowed or denied to any American.

Birth parents were not promised lifelong anonymity from the daughters and sons they surrendered for adoption. There is no law that legally guarantees anonymity to birth parents or birth families. These, and the various other arguments offered by opponents to reform, have been thoroughly refuted with constructive results in other states.

The American Adoption Congress began in 1978. The group officially formed the American Adoption Congress in 1980 with the goal of championing adoptee rights, with emphasis on gaining universal access to original birth certificates for adoptees. The AAC incorporated in 1981 and has been a 501(c)(3), registered in the state of Missouri, since 1982.

We hope this statement may assist. We thank you for taking up HB6105 and for all ongoing efforts to restore adult adoptee human and civil rights.

Respectfully,

Tim

Tim Monti-Wohlpart
American Adoption Congress
National Legislative Chair